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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 023971-0323

In re patent application of

Tomohito OTA et al.

Serial No.: 10/685,782

Group Art Unit: 1714

Filed: October 16, 2003

Examiner: Sandra K. Poulos

For: THERMOPLASTIC RESIN COMPOSITION, RESINOUS MATERIAL
INCLUDING SAME COMPOSITION, AND SLIDING MEMBERS USING SAME
MATERIAL

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 2, 2006, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-6, drawn to a thermoplastic resin composition, for prosecution in the subject application.

This election is made with traverse, to the extent that (1) upon allowance of claims to the elected compositions, Applicants should be entitled to article of manufacture claims that include the subject matter of the allowed claims; and (2) upon any rejection of the elected claims, the PTO should also consider the claims of Group II, to the extent that the cited prior art shows that "the species are [not] patentably distinct." Further, Applicants will be entitled to rejoinder of method claims (Group III) in accordance with the practice of MPEP 821.04 and *In re Ochiai*, 71 F.3d 1565, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (Fed.Cir. 1995).

Applicants, of course, reserve the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims that are not otherwise includable in this application according to the comments above.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 27, 2006


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